

# Western Chapter Society of Wetland Scientists

## INQUIRY SUBMITTAL

### a. Project Title and Applicant Name

**The Development of Wetland Restoration Guidelines for the Bay-Delta Ecosystem**  
Proposed by the Society of Wetland Scientists, Western Chapter

### b. Project Description and Objectives

This proposal would result in the development of guidelines for the restoration of tidal, nontidal freshwater, and riparian wetland systems in the Bay-Delta ecosystem through a peer-reviewed process which draws on previous experience in restoration in the region.

This project will:

1. Result in the production of restoration guidelines for specific habitat types.
2. Further the aims of the San Francisco Bay Habitat Joint Venture (the "JV") through the development of implementation strategies for the JV.
3. Result in the completion of an electronic and hard copy data base of completed restoration projects.
4. Begin development of an information storehouse for future restoration work.

### c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Use existing data to develop a list of completed projects.  | Complete: January 1998    |
| 2. Review the existing files and literature to develop a "short-list" of 20 projects for each of the three habitat categories. | Complete: February, 1998  |
| 3. Define review elements, develop data base   | Complete: March, 1998     |
| 4. Review each project, including field work   | Complete: July, 1998      |
| 5. Publish draft guidelines  | Complete: September, 1998 |
| 6. Peer-review guidelines  | Complete: November, 1998  |
| 7. Complete negotiations for repository  | Complete: December, 1998  |
| 8. Produce final guidelines  | Complete: January, 1999   |

### d. CALFED Justification

Wetland restoration has been practiced in the Bay-Delta ecosystem for almost a century. Reviews of this work have been few, and recommendations or guidelines have not been almost completely absent. However, the number of completed projects and the potential availability of restoration plans and monitoring reports make a systematic review of past projects eminently practicable.

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This review is critical now due to a number of emerging elements: the development of regional restoration goals for the Bay Area; the continued practice of restoration to meet a broad variety of objectives; the spread of restoration to the community level; and the availability of grant funds for restoration work. Additionally, the principal authors of this proposal review numerous restoration plans each year and are continuously struck by the lack of information on failed or outdated techniques or the failure to make use of simple tools which can help avoid problems. In short, the process of wetland restoration in the Bay-Delta ecosystem has not been a case study in adaptive management. One of the primary problems has been the lack of information on the results of completed projects reviewed and presented in a systematic fashion. This project will: (1) reduce conflicts in the ecosystem by reducing the uncertainty (both real and perceived) of restoration; (2) assist in the restoration of high risk species and habitats by providing hitherto unavailable information on previous restoration work; and (3) provide broad ecosystem benefits by collecting and reviewing much of the restoration experience of the past two decades.

## **e. Costs**

We are requesting \$150,00 to complete this project. No third party impacts are expected.

## **f. Personnel Qualifications**

The Society of Wetland Scientists, Western Chapter, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. The project team would be led by John Zentner. Other members of the team include Karl Malamud-Roam, Glen Holstein and Jeff Glaspy. John Zentner is a principal at Zentner and Zentner, a professional consulting firm specializing in wetland restoration. Mr. Zentner has extensive experience in both restoration and evaluating restoration projects. He is the author of one of the few reviews of California wetland restoration projects and is the president of the Western Chapter, SWS. Mr. Malamud-Roam is a wetland specialist with the Contra Costa County Mosquito and Vector Control Agency and the Treasurer of the Western Chapter, SWS. Dr. Holstein is a senior ecologist at Zentner and Zentner and well-known for his work in riparian and vegetation ecology. Mr. Glaspy is the owner of Los Robles Native Plants, a firm specializing in wetland restoration and maintenance.

**g. Monitoring:** This project fulfills monitoring functions.

## **h. Local support**

This project will provide support to the Bay Habitat Joint Venture and for future restoration work in the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

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